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Steps To Take When Death Is Imminent

1. Decide on how to care for the sick person's dependent children and spouse (if the spouse is also ill or incapacitated.)
2. Arrange care of your loved one's pets.
3. Search for paperwork regarding your loved one's final arrangements.
 - a. Determine their wishes regarding final arrangements.
 - b. Check to see whether the bill for these arrangements was previously paid.
4. Evaluate the need for security at your loved one's home.
5. Secure loved one's vehicle, in a garage if possible.
6. Review your loved one's mail to look for bills or other evidence of creditors.
 - a. Do not pay any bills until first consulting an attorney.
7. Be aware that if your loved one has a Durable Power of Attorney, it's validity will end at their death.
8. Locate original Will and Trust if either exist.
9. Determine if there is a safe deposit box.
 - a. If so, determine whose names are on the box.
 - b. Locate keys.
10. Locate life insurance policies and determine if beneficiaries are named. If not, determine whether the Durable Power of Attorney allows the Agent to name beneficiaries.
11. Determine what if any assets are titled in your loved one's name alone. Contact an attorney if assets are found in your loved one's name alone without named beneficiaries.